

Amendments to the Claims:

This following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bone fixation system for coupling a first fracture fixation implant to a second fracture fixation implant, comprising:

a first implant;

a second implant defining a longitudinal axis;

a body member receivable in the first implant, the body member including at least one prong extending from the body member for contacting a surface of the second implant when in an engaged position to substantially prevent rotation of the second implant with respect to the first implant while simultaneously permitting sliding of the second implant with respect to the first implant along the longitudinal axis;
and

a drive member for moving the body member toward the second implant
~~wherein the second implant defines a longitudinal axis, and the at least one prong permits sliding of the second implant with respect to the first implant along the longitudinal axis.~~

2.(Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the at least one prong defines a first engagement surface;

the second implant defines a second engagement surface; and

the first and second engagement surfaces interact to substantially prevent rotation of the second implant with respect to the first implant.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the body member is located in a longitudinal channel in the first implant, and the at least one prong occupies a space defined between the channel and second engagement surface.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one prong limits sliding

of the second implant with respect to the first implant to a predetermined distance along the longitudinal axis.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the second implant defines an engagement surface having a first end and a second end longitudinally spaced from the first end, with stops formed adjacent at least one of the ends for contacting the at least one ~~single~~ prong to limit sliding of the second implant along the longitudinal axis.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the second implant extends through a bore in the first implant.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the first implant defines a first longitudinal axis and the second implant defines a second longitudinal axis, and the bore orients the first longitudinal axis at a predetermined angle with respect to the second longitudinal axis.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the predetermined angle substantially matches the neck/shaft angle of a femur.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the body member includes a substantially cylindrical portion defining a longitudinal axis of the body member, and the at least one prong extends in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the body member includes at least one tab for engaging a corresponding groove on an inner surface of the first implant.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one tab engages the groove to substantially prevent rotation of the body member within the first implant.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the body member includes a substantially cylindrical portion having a lower surface, and the at least one tab engages the groove to maintain a space between the lower surface and the second implant.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the drive member is connected to the body member.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the drive member is rotatable with respect to the body member.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the drive member threadably engages the first implant.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the drive member is receivable within the first implant.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the body member includes only a single prong.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the at least one prong has a length, a width and a thickness, and the length and width of the at least one prong are both greater than its thickness.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein a cannulation extends through the end cap for receiving a guide wire.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the first implant for receiving a guide wire.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the drive member for receiving a guide wire.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the body member for receiving a guide wire.

23. (Currently Amended) A bone fixation system for coupling a first fracture fixation implant to a second fracture fixation implant, comprising:

- a first implant;
- a second implant;
- a body member receivable in the first implant, the body defining a first longitudinal axis;
- a first prong extending from the body member for contacting a first surface of the second implant, the first prong defining a first prong length along the first longitudinal axis;
- a second prong extending from the body member for contacting a second surface of the second implant, the second prong defining a second prong length along the first longitudinal axis; and
- a drive member for pressing the body member toward the second implant;

wherein the second prong length is ~~substantially~~ longer than the first prong length, the second implant defines a second longitudinal axis, and the ~~at least one~~ prongs permits sliding of the second implant with respect to the first implant along the second longitudinal axis while at least one of the first and second prongs simultaneously engages the second implant.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the first and second prongs are substantially parallel to one another.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the second prong length is substantially zero.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second prongs contacts the second implant to substantially prevent rotation of the second implant with respect to the first implant.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second prongs contacts the second implant to substantially limit sliding of the second implant ~~along~~ to a predetermined distance along the second longitudinal axis.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the second implant extends through a bore in the first implant.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the first implant defines a third longitudinal axis, the bore orients the third longitudinal axis at a predetermined angle with respect to the second longitudinal axis, and the predetermined angle substantially matches the neck/shaft angle of a femur.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the body member includes at least one tab for engaging a corresponding groove on an inner surface of the first implant.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the at least one tab engages the groove to substantially prevent rotation of the body member within the first implant.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the body member includes a substantially cylindrical portion having a lower surface, and the at least one tab engages the groove to maintain a space between the lower surface and the second implant.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, further comprising an end cap attachable to the first implant.

34. (Previously Presented) A bone fixation system for coupling a first fracture fixation implant to a second fracture fixation implant, comprising:

- a first implant;

- a second implant;

- a body member receivable in the first implant, the body member including at least one prong extending from the body member for contacting a surface of the second implant to substantially prevent rotation of the second implant with respect to the first implant, the at least one prong having a length, a width and a thickness, such that the length and width of the at least one prong are both greater than its thickness; and

- a drive member for moving the body member toward the second implant

Appln. Serial No. 10/774,272
Filed: February 6, 2004
Docket No.: 8932-876-999
CAM No.: 232200-999224

wherein the second implant defines a longitudinal axis, and the at least one prong permits sliding of the second implant with respect to the first implant along the longitudinal axis.